

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

THREE FIRST NATIONAL PLAZA
70 WEST MADISON STREET
SUITE 3300
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602-4207

(312) 372-1121
(312) 827-8000 FAX

Visit our web site at
www.bellboyd.com

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From Christopher S. Hermanson

Phone (312) 807-4225

Direct Fax (312) 827-1293

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Message RE: Application No. 09/966,663
Applicant: Anthony J. Baerlocher

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Application No. 09/966,663

Attachment to the Interview Request Form

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ARGUMENTS TO BE PRESENTED:

- We believe that the Examiner's motivation to combine the references is a general statement and contrary to what is required by law;
- We want to discuss whether there is any teaching or suggestion in either of the references to make the stated combination;
- Even if the references are combined, we believe that the claimed invention is different from the combination of the teachings from Thomas and DeMar. In particular, DeMar fails to teach the supplementing award of the claimed invention; and
- We would also like to discuss the proposed claim amendments attached to this request. We believe that the proposed claim amendments further clarify the claims and place the claims in better condition for allowance in view of the cited references.

FOR INTERVIEW PURPOSES ONLY

PROPOSED AMENDED CLAIMS FOR U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO. 09/966,663

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

- a processor;
- a plurality of selections;
- a plurality of awards associated with said selections; and
- at least one supplementing award associated with at least one of said selections, said supplementing award adapted to be provided to a player by the processor when the player picks the selection associated with the supplementing award, each supplementing award including an award which is automatically provided to the player and at least one additional award generation which automatically provides an independent independently randomly determined additional award to the player for said supplementing award.

Claim 2 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the selections are player selectable.

Claim 3 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes at least one database of said awards and said supplementing awards accessible by the processor.

Claim 4 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of databases accessible by the processor, wherein each database has a number of awards and at least one supplementing award.

Claim 5 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein each award generation provides a number of game credits or a game credit multiplier.

Claim 6 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein an award generation includes providing a randomly generated award, a predetermined award or a number of free games.

Claim 7 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein an award generation includes an additional selection.

Claim 8 (original): The gaming device of Claim 7, wherein said additional selection is one of the plurality of selections not previously selected.

Claim 9 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein said award generation yields another supplementing award.

Claim 10 (original): The gaming device of Claim 9, wherein said another supplementing award is associated with one of the plurality of selections not previously selected.

Claim 11 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein a plurality of supplementing awards are displayed on an electromechanical device controlled by the processor.

Claim 12 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a supplementing award limit defining a maximum number of supplementing awards associated with said selections.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

 a processor;
 a plurality of selections;
 a plurality of awards associated with said selections; and
 at least one supplementing award associated with said selections and adapted to be provided to a player by the processor, said supplementing award including an award which is automatically provided to the player and a random award generation which automatically provides an independent independently randomly determined additional award to the player for said supplementing award.

Claim 14 (original): The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein the processor randomly generates a supplementing award from among the plurality of awards.

Claim 15 (original): The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein the selections are player selectable.

Claim 16 (original): The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein said award associated with said supplementing award is a game credit or a game credit multiplier.

Claim 17 (original): The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein said random award generation yields an award, a supplementing award, an additional pick of a selection or a free game.

Claim 18 (original): The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes storage means accessible by the processor for storing a plurality of groups of awards and supplementing awards.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a plurality of awards; and

a plurality of supplementing awards adapted to be provided to a player by the processor, each of said supplementing awards including one of the awards which is automatically provided to the player and an award generation that chooses one of the plurality of awards which is an independent independently randomly determined additional award automatically provided to the player for said supplementing award.

Claim 20 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the award generation chooses from remaining unselected awards of the plurality of awards.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

- a display device; and
- a processor adapted to communicate with said display device; said display device and said processor adapted to:
 - (a) enable a player to pick at least one selection from a plurality of selections;
 - (b) generate a supplementing award associated with one of said selections;
 - (c) automatically provide an award to the player associated with said supplementing award if the player picks the selection associated with the supplementing award; and
 - (d) provide an award generation associated with said supplementing award if the player picks the selection associated with the supplementing award, which automatically provides an independent independently randomly determined additional award to the player for said supplementing award.

Claim 22 (original): The gaming device of Claim 21, wherein said display device and said processor are adapted to provide at least one additional supplementing award as an outcome of the award generation.

Claim 23 (original): The gaming device of Claim 21, wherein said display device and said processor are adapted to provide at least one additional selection as an outcome of the award generation.

Claim 24 (original): The gaming device of Claim 21, wherein said award generation is a random generation.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

- a display device; and
- a processor adapted to communicate with said display device; said display device and said processor adapted to:
 - (a) enable a player to pick at least one selection from a plurality of selections;
 - (b) generate a supplementing award associated with one of said selections;
 - (c) automatically provide an award to the player associated with said supplementing award if the player picks the selection associated with the supplementing award; and
 - (d) provide an award generation associated with said supplementing award if the player picks the selection associated with the supplementing award, wherein said award generation automatically yields an independent independently randomly determined additional award provided to the player and another supplementing award which automatically provides a further independent independently randomly determined award to the player for said supplementing award.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

a processor;

a plurality of selections;

a plurality of awards associated with said selections;

at least one supplementing award associated with said selections, wherein the supplementing award includes an award which is automatically provided to the player and at least one additional award generation which automatically provides an independent additional award to a player;

a probability of selecting an award associated with each of the awards; and

a processor operable to enable a player to pick one of the selections, randomly associate one of the awards with the picked selection based on the probabilities, automatically provide an award and at least one additional award generation that provides an independent independently randomly determined additional award to the player when the supplementing award is associated with the picked selection and automatically provides one of the awards to the player when the supplementing award is not associated with the picked selection.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 26, wherein the probabilities associated with at least two of the awards are different.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 26, wherein the probabilities associated with each of the awards is the same.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 26, wherein the probability associated with the supplementing award is less than the probabilities associated with at least one of the awards.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 26, wherein the probability associated with the supplementing award is greater than the probabilities associated with at least one of the awards.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 26, wherein the selections are player selectable.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 26, which includes at least one database of said awards and said supplementing awards accessible by the processor.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 26, which includes a plurality of databases accessible by the processor, wherein each database has a number of awards and at least one supplementing award.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 26, wherein each award generation provides a number of game credits or a game credit multiplier.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 26, wherein an award generation includes providing a randomly generated award, a predetermined award or a number of free games.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 26, wherein an award generation includes an additional selection.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 36, wherein said additional selection is one of the plurality of selections not previously selected.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 36, wherein said award generation yields another supplementing award.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 39 38, wherein said another supplementing award is associated with one of the plurality of selections not previously selected.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 36, wherein a plurality of supplementing awards are displayed on an electromechanical device controlled by the processor.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The gaming device of Claim 36, which includes a supplementing award limit defining a maximum number of supplementing awards associated with said selections.